

FALKLAND ISLANDS GENERAL (ADVANCES)

3145

PS/MR HURD
PS/MR ONSLOW
PS/MR RIFKIND
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
SIR I SINCLAIR
MR GIFFARD
MR WRIGHT
MR ADAMS
LORD N G LENNOX
MR EVANS
MR URE
MR GILLMORE

HD/PUSD (2)
HD/SAMD
HD/FID
HD/DEFENCE DEPT
HD/NEWS DEPT
HD/ERD
HD/ECD(E)
HD/UND
HD/PLANNING STAFF

IMMEDIATE

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (3)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
MR J STEWART AUSD STAFF MOD

PS/CHANCELLOR)
MR ILETT) TREASURY
MR LITTLER)

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
MR A D S GOODALL) CABINET OFFICE
DIO)

MR M A PATTISON, FID, ODA

MR A TITCHENER)
MR C H ROBERTS, IAT) DOT
MR A FORTNAM

RESIDENT CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 260930Z

FM MONTEVIDEO 252215Z MAR 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 175 OF 25 MARCH

REPEATED TO UKMIS GENEVA AND CIVIL COMMISSIONER PORT STANLEY

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 219: ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN.

I SPOKE TO AMBASSADOR BERTHET AS INSTRUCTED IN PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE.

1. AMBASSADOR BERTHET SAID THAT HE REGRETTED HAVING TO BE SO INSISTENT BUT THE URUGUAYANS MUST HAVE A REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND BEFORE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BRITISH NEXT OF KIN VISIT WERE FINALISED. WAS THERE ANY HOPE OF A SUBSTANTIVE REPLY ON MONDAY? I SAID THAT I DID NOT KNOW BUT WOULD AGAIN REPORT ON THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER FOR URUGUAY.

[Typist's aa]

IMMEDIATE

2. AMBASSADOR BERTHET EXPLAINED THAT THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT MUST BE ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT NEXT WEEK ABOUT URUGUAY'S SYMPATHY TOWARDS THE DESTEFANIS REQUEST. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT DESTEFANIS OFFICIALLY. IN HIS VIEW THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS WELL AWARE OF DESTEFANIS' ACTIVITIES AND WERE PROBABLY ENCOURAGING THEM. THE URUGUAYANS WERE DELIBERATELY NOT TRYING TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT DESTEFANIS AND HIS GROUP UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY COULD SEND A REPLY. WE COULD HOWEVER REST ASSURED THAT THEY WOULD MAKE VERY FULL ENQUIRIES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. TURNING TO THE BRITISH NEXT OF KIN VISIT AMBASSADOR BERTHET SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT THE URUGUAYANS FEARED A VIRULENT ARGENTINE PRESS CAMPAIGN NEXT WEEK PARTICULARLY WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN HOW LARGE THE PARTY WAS. IF ON TOP OF THIS URUGUAY WAS NOT PREPARED TO HELP OVER THE ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN VISIT URUGUAY'S POSITION WOULD BE UNTENABLE.

4. SPEAKING CONFIDENTIALLY AND OFF THE RECORD AMBASSADOR BERTHET SAID THAT I MUST BE AWARE OF VARYING VIEWS WITHIN THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE ARMED FORCES, ABOUT THE BRITISH VISIT. IF IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE BRITISH COULD NOT ACCEPT AN ARGENTINE NEXT OF KIN VISIT, THE BRITISH VISIT WOULD INEVITABLY BE JEOPARDISED. IT WAS FOR THIS AS WELL AS ANY OTHER REASON THAT HE HOPED FOR AN EARLY AND POSITIVE BRITISH REPLY. IT WOULD BE SAD FOR THE BRITISH NEXT OF KIN IF THE VISIT HAD TO BE CANCELLED AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT.

5. THE POSITION IS NOW CLEAR. IT WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE BRITISH VISIT TO GO AHEAD UNLESS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE CAN AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO AN ARGENTINE VISIT. THERE COULD ALSO BE LONGER TERM REPERCUSSIONS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH URUGUAY.

HUTCHINSON